State Of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

Sunday morning, September 19, 1982, was bright and clear in Sturgis, South Dakota, with no indication of the drama that was about to take place. It was about 11:30 A.M. when the propane leak in the Charles Colton home ignited. The explosion broke windows, shattered the entry, and blew the house off its foundation.

Dean Flage, the Coltons' neighbor, immediately ran to their assistance. As he crossed their yard, flames were starting to come out of the basement, and screams were coming from within the house. Dean tried to open the door, but found it was jammed by the force of the explosion. He kicked it open, and led three people to safety. He re-entered the house and led Charles Colton, who was badly burned from the explosion, out of the house to medical attention. Then, when Mrs. Colton had returned to the house to retrieve some personal possessions, Dean re-entered the burning home a third time to lead her to safety again.

Quick wits and immediate action were the keys to Dean's successful rescue mission. He knew he had only moments to act, and he did not hesitate. Because of his immediate response to the explosion and fire and his willingness to risk his own life, he is a hero of whom we can all be proud.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

DEAN FLAGE

and I join Dean's family and friends in saluting him for his selfless courage and valor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Three

William Janklow

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY Jay D. Vogt

JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

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